

Here are a few answers about the Open Burning regulations that were enacted last fall. Please pass this information along to as many people as possible as I'm sure there will be confusion in the coming weeks when the weather turns warmer and our residents begin to clean up from what the storms left over.

Under the new regulations covering Open Burning, the burning of brush, twigs, branches, and traditional "Yard Debris" is PROHIBITED between March 16th and May 14th.

[/*Open burning is the single greatest cause of wildfires </outdoor/7827.html> in New York*/](#).

*Where should I call to report an illegal open fire? *To report violations call 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332).

Burning trash [</chemical/32065.html>](#) is now prohibited statewide in all cases. The En Con's existing incinerator rule already prohibits burning household trash in wood stoves, fireplaces, and outdoor wood boilers. DEC recommends that you recycle [</public/43706.html>](#) all appropriate materials (such as newspaper, paper, glass and plastic) and compost [</chemical/8799.html>](#) your organic kitchen and garden waste.

The following are exceptions to the March 16th to May 14th prohibition.

Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices when actually used for cooking or processing food.

Small fires used for cooking and camp fires provided that only charcoal or untreated wood is used as fuel and the fire is not left unattended until extinguished.

On-site burning of agricultural wastes as part of a valid agricultural operation on contiguous agricultural lands larger than five acres actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use, provided such waste is actually grown or generated on those lands and such waste is capable of being fully burned within a 24-hour period.

The use of liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops.

Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires where not otherwise prohibited by law, provided that only untreated wood or other agricultural products are used as fuel and the fire is not left unattended until extinguished.

Small fires that are used to dispose of a flag or religious item, and small fires or other smoke producing process where not otherwise prohibited by law that are used in connection with a religious ceremony.

Burning on an emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous or contraband materials by police or other public safety organization.

Fire training, including firefighting, fire rescue, and fire/arson investigation training, performed under applicable rules and guidelines of the New York State Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Individual open fires as approved by the Director of the Division of Air Resources as may be required in response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease upon request by the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, or for the destruction of invasive plant and insect species.

Individual open fires that are otherwise authorized under the environmental conservation law, or by rule or regulation of the Department.